

The following questions were shared by an attorney representing a former Afghan Special Forces officer at the Arlington Asylum Office.

Background from Attorney: Client was involved with the Afghan National Army Special Operations Command (ANASOC). The client was called for a re-interview after completing his first interview *pro se*. The re-interview notice was received roughly 4 months after the first interview. At the beginning of the interview, the asylum office confirmed the purpose of the interview was to obtain additional information about employment. The asylum office could not confirm whether the basis of the questions was because additional information was obtained or that a new standard had been set by the department. The tone, context, and extensive questions indicate the latter. It was apparent that the office was following a detailed set of questions. For example, if “yes” ask this question. There were a total of 194 questions, although some have been removed for privacy reasons.

1. Have you ever traveled/lived outside Afghanistan?
2. Did you ever take a Haj trip?
3. Have you ever worked in another country?
4. Have you ever lived in Pakistan?
5. Did you have a regular occurrence to move between borders?
6. Why did your family live between borders?
7. Did you have any legal documentation?
8. Have you ever lived in Iran?
9. Were you ever offered, applied, etc. any form of immigration status in any country?
10. Have you ever provided false info to a government official?
11. Have you ever served in the military, police, etc.?
12. How many years of service?
13. What about any other branch of law enforcement?
14. Did you ever have any mandatory military service?
15. Have you ever harmed anyone for any reason?
16. Were you ever conscripted by [named a couple of groups]?
17. Have you ever committed a crime?
18. Have you ever been accused or charged of a crime?
19. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

The officer read the definition of terrorist activities: firearms, explosives, ..., assassination.

20. Did you understand the definition?
21. Have you ever been accused of terrorist activity?
22. Have you ever threatened to do terrorist activities?
23. Have you ever publicly or openly stated you approve of violence?
24. Are you a member of a violent or terrorist organization?
25. Even against your will, have you ever provided support to a group or individual involved in terrorist activity?
26. Have you ever paid anyone from an armed group for use of utilities, water, gas, electric?
27. Have you ever supported terrorist activities even if did not want to?
28. Have you ever recruited others for terrorist activities?
29. Has anyone in your family been member of terrorist org? [gave examples]
30. Have you ever lived or worked in an area controlled by terrorist group?

31. Have you ever passed through checkpoint by armed groups who were not part of the Afghan government?
32. Have you ever provided money, goods, services to pass checkpoint?
33. Did you leave Afghanistan through the Kabul airport?
34. Describe how able to cross into the airport?
35. Did you ever receive weapons training outside military training?
36. Did you ever own a weapon for personal use?
37. Did the *T* ever ask for gifts or favors?
38. Have you ever held an official government position? Have you ever been elected?
39. Has your spouse ever been involved violent terrorist activity?
40. Do you plan to do anything illegal in US?

Questions about military training

41. Timeline of units
42. Dates of training
43. After training, what unit were you assigned to?
44. What is the difference between Afghan commando and Afghan special forces?
45. Back to dates of training
46. Describe OCS training
47. Length of training
48. You mentioned you were taught how to “keep” human rights. What were you taught?
49. What did instructors teach about human rights?
50. How were you taught to interact with civilians, people who are not in military and not *T*?
51. Were you taught how to ID an enemy?
52. Did you learn how to engage with enemy, rules of warfare?
53. Did you ever learn how to transport prisoners?
54. What were you taught about transporting prisoners?
55. Who were your teachers during OCS?
56. Did you receive any specialized weapons training?
57. What was your rank after training?
58. Between commando school and SF training, did you have missions?
59. What is the difference between commando school and OCS?
60. Were you trained at X camp?

61. Did you ever see a detention center at X camp?
62. Were you part of the X battalion or X?
63. What did you learn about raids or how to conduct a raid during commando school?
64. Ever train with counter-narcotics? Or conduct mission to stop opiate trade?
65. What province was X camp in?
66. How many people were in your Commando school training?
67. What rank were you when you left commando school?
68. Why is there a gap between commando training and special forces school?
69. What was your rank when you joined SF school?
70. What is the main difference between commando school and SF school?
71. How long was SF school?
72. Location?
73. Describe training at SF school.
74. What was your rank when you left SF school?

Questions about work as commando

75. What unit or multiple units?
76. When you graduated, were you assigned to a specific unit?
77. Which units were you assigned to throughout your time as a commando?
78. Duties in X position?
79. Who was your direct supervisor?
80. Where did get missions from?
81. Did you designate missions yourself?
82. What kind of missions did you go on?
83. What base were you operating from?
84. How often did you operate outside the base?
85. X days outside base to X or sporadically out and back to base?
86. Did you participate in operation X in DATE?
87. Did you ever use weapon or explosive device against another person in that job position?
Including the T or any individual?
88. Did you see combat?
89. How many times did you see combat?
90. Who would give you permission to participate in combat or combat activities, or could you fire weapon if wanted to?
91. Did you ever tell someone to fire when it was not enemy combatant?
92. Did you ever witness a soldier firing on non-enemy combatant?
93. How were you chosen to be [next job position]?
94. How did job duties change from X to X?
95. As X, were you able to choose targets that the platoon attacked?
96. Did you ever receive command from people outside the Ministry of Defense?

97. Go on more missions outside base?
98. Who went on missions?
99. Specific type of missions? Ambushes, defensive action?
100. As Z, did you ever fire a weapon?
101. How many times or instances of combat were you in where you fired a weapon?
102. What would prompt to fire vs when would not fire weapon?
103. What did you do with bodies of enemy? Their weapons?
104. How were you chosen to be [next job position]?
105. How did job duties change from X to X?
106. What was your involvement like with foreign troops? What interaction with American, British, NATO?
107. Before 2014, how often did US troops come on missions?
108. When out in field, how often were US troops with you?
109. Did you ever conduct night raids?
110. Did you participate in night raid in DATE in X province?
111. Did you participate in operation named X?
112. Did you ever participate in mission that killed X?
113. What was your role?
114. You fought T, but any other groups too?

Special Forces questions

115. When you first graduated, where were you assigned?
116. Units name?
117. Did you ever go on combat missions?
118. Dates?
119. Duties in X position?
120. What type of crimes did you see inside military? [committed by Afghan military members]
121. What were repercussions for people in your unit who committed crimes?
122. What would happen to someone connected to enemy combatants?
123. What would happen to them with investigation team?
124. Did you ever hear of investigation team harming a soldier who had connected with enemy?
125. Did you ever work with NDS?
126. Did you ever interview a detainee or order someone to interview detainee?
127. How many soldiers did you supervise?
128. Daily assignments in X position?
129. Did you ever go on missions?
130. Where did you get info or intelligence from to [perform that duty]?

- 131. What did you do to prevent losing civilians?
- 132. Did SF ever harm civilians while you were a SF officer?
- 133. Who was your direct supervisor?
- 134. How familiar are you with X? [High ranking official, not person who was answer to above question]
- 135. Did you work with X?
- 136. What type of work?

Questions about entire military service

- 137. What type of classes did you take?
- 138. What does human rights mean to you?
- 139. Did you ever witness human rights abuses by soldiers throughout your career?
- 140. Did you ever have basic law enforcement duties, like policing?
- 141. Have you ever seen soldiers misuse drugs or alcohol while on duty?
- 142. Did you ever see soldiers mistreat women while in uniform?
- 143. Did you ever communicate with any armed groups as part of your position?
- 144. Did you ever negotiate with any armed groups?
- 145. Have you ever attended a jirga with high level tribal leaders?
- 146. What type tribal leaders would you meet with?
- 147. Did you ever work in jail?
- 148. Did you ever transport prisoners?
- 149. Were you ever cited for misconduct?
- 150. Did you ever operate drones, unmanned vehicles?
- 151. Did you ever choose targets for drones to drop?
- 152. Did you ever work with counter espionage?
- 153. Did you ever work with 0 units?
- 154. Did you ever work with KPF?
- 155. Who told you to create checkpoints?
- 156. How regularly would you make checkpoints?
- 157. Was this a big part of job?
- 158. Did you ever arrest/detain civilians at checkpoints?
- 159. Did you ever personally interrogate prisoners or enemy combatants?
- 160. Did you ever hurt a civilian even if unintentionally?
- 161. Did you ever conduct house searches of civilians?
- 162. Did you ever hear of abuse of civilians during house searches?
- 163. Did you ever see minors or young boys on base?
- 164. Did U.S. change of mission after 2013-2014 change your assignments?
- 165. Describe changes?
- 166. Did you ever work with General X?
- 167. Some people consider X a warlord, how would you describe?

168. Some people said he was drug smuggler or involved in corruption. Are you aware of any of this?
169. Reports that X operated secret detention centers, were you aware of this?
170. Were you curious if those reports were accurate?
171. There are credible reports that some high-level ANA received bribes, were you aware of this happening?
172. Were you ever a recipient of unlawful payment?
173. Did you ever collect info about civilians or enemy because of their nationality, ethnicity, religion, political beliefs?
174. Did you ever collect info on foreign officials, embassy staff?
175. Did you ever use any aliases?
176. Did you ever use a birth year X?
177. Have you ever been to X province?
178. Why?
179. Have you ever claimed to be born in X province?
180. Have you ever been to X district in X province?
181. Have you ever been to X province?
182. Why?
183. There for any other reason?